

ABSTRACT

A hydrostatic stepless transmission comprises a hydraulic pump and a hydraulic motor, at least one of the hydraulic pump and motor being variable in displacement; a closed circuit for fluidly connecting the hydraulic pump and motor to each other therethrough, the closed circuit including a pair of oil passages between the hydraulic pump and motor, one of the oil passages being hydraulically higher-pressured and the other being hydraulically depressed when the hydraulic pump delivers oil to the hydraulic motor; a speed change operation device for changing output rotational speed of the hydraulic motor; and a leak valve connected to the speed change operation device. The leak valve is connected to the closed circuit so that, when the speed change operation device is suddenly operated, the leak valve allows oil to leak from the higher-pressured oil passage to an area hydraulically pressured lower than the higher-pressured oil passage, such as the depressed oil passage in the closed circuit or an oil sump out of the closed circuit, and then stops leaking oil when operation of the speed change operation device is stopped.